



**Minutes for Meeting of
Thursday, March 10, 2016**

Item 1: Call to Order

Commission Vice-Chair Fuller called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Vice-Chair Clyde Fuller and Commissioners Bill Baber, Deborah Cochran, Dave Potter, Sid Voorakkara (arrived at 5:10 p.m.), and Greg Zinser

Absent – Alex Kreit

Staff – Executive Director Stacey Fulhorst, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Deputy Executive Director Tracy Morales, Program Manager Steve Ross, and Audit Program Manager Auditor Rosalba Gomez

Item 3: Approval of Commission Minutes of December 10, 2015, and February 17, 2016

Motion:	Approve Minutes
Moved/Seconded:	Potter/Baber
Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Kreit and Voorakkara

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Item 5: Commissioner Comment

None

Item 6: Executive Director Comment

Executive Director Fulhorst announced that the Ethics Commission's Investigative Program Manager, Lauri Davis, who has been the Commission's investigator for almost twelve years,

will be retiring July 1, 2016. She also provided an update regarding the Money in Politics Forum the Commission is hosting on April 18, 2016.

Item 7: General Counsel Comment

None

Item 8: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding Lorie Zapf for City Council 2014

Ms. Fulhorst reminded the Commissioners that audit reports with no material findings are presented to them for acceptance during the open session portion of Commission meetings. She added that the Commission's Audit Program Manager, Rosalba Gomez, is present to answer questions.

Motion:	Accept Final Audit Report
Moved/Seconded:	Potter/Cochran
Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Kreit
Abstention:	Voorakkara

Item 9: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding Neighbors United for a Better City Government Supporting Lorie Zapf for Council 2014 sponsored by the Lincoln Club of San Diego County

Motion:	Accept Final Audit Report
Moved/Seconded:	Potter/Voorakkara
Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Kreit

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Political Reform Act Revision Project

Ms. Fulhorst reported that the Fair Political Practices Commission [FPPC] recently announced that it will undertake a project in 2016 to streamline and simplify the sections of the Political Reform Act that address campaign, lobbying, and ethics laws. This announcement came shortly after this Commission formed an ad hoc subcommittee to consider how the Commission might harmonize local campaign laws with state laws. Because current state laws governing advertising disclaimers are complicated and inconsistent, the subcommittee determined that the full Commission should consider whether to recommend changes to these laws in connection with the FPPC project.

She directed the Commissioners' attention to a five-page summary of existing state and local laws associated with advertising disclaimers in the meeting backup materials, and provided an overview of the recommendations set forth in the staff report.

Commissioner Voorakkara inquired about the timeline for the FPPC project. Ms. Fulhorst responded that the project is underway, and that the FPPC plans to distribute an initial draft this summer. Commissioner Voorakkara expressed his desire for staff to proactively commence conversations with FPPC staff.

Commissioner Baber commented about the disclosures required on advocacy telephone calls and the distinction between scientific polls and push polls. He related that, in his experience, 400 to 600 is almost always the sample size for telephone polling, regardless of the size of the jurisdiction. Ms. Fulhorst suggested that the Commission could ask the FPPC to study and possibly increase the thresholds for advertising disclaimers on phone calls (200 for independent expenditures and 500 for all other calls).

The Commissioners expressed general support for the recommendations in the staff report. Ms. Fulhorst advised the Commission that she would be in touch with the Legislative Director at the FPPC to determine whether the agency would be receptive to these suggestions in connection with its ongoing project.

Item 11: Adjourn to Closed Session

Vice-Chair Fuller adjourned the meeting to closed session at approximately 5:30 p.m. He stated the Commission would reconvene into open session following the conclusion of closed session in order to report any action taken during the closed session portion of the meeting.

Reconvene to Open Session

Vice Chair Fuller called the meeting back into open session at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of March 10, 2016

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of March 10, 2016:

Item-1: Conference with Legal Counsel (1 potential matter)

Case No. 2016-04 – Filing Deadline for Quarterly Disclosure Report

Motion:	Authorize Investigation
Moved/Seconded:	Potter/Voorakkara
Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Kreit

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Clyde Fuller, Vice Chair
Ethics Commission

Tracy Morales, Deputy Executive Director
Ethics Commission

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST.

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